



## Germany: Facts & Figures December 2007

*A monthly overview of current opinion data and statistical information in the Federal Republic of Germany*

### Politics

If Bundestag elections would have been held on December 30, the CDU/CSU would have received 38% of the vote, the SPD 26%, the Green Party 10%, the FDP 10%, the Left Party 11%, and all other parties combined 5%. (Forsa. 12/26/29/07)

46% of German managers are "all in all" satisfied with the CDU/CSU/SPD government. 73% of leading managers of German trade and industry also said Angela Merkel "is a strong chancellor." 58% are satisfied with the coalition's economic policy, but 59% consider the extension of the payment of unemployment assistance to be a signal that the willingness for reforms is declining. (Allensbach. Capital, 12/04/07)

### Economy

In December, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 8.1%. The number of unemployed increased by 28,000 to 3.4 million. (Federal Employment Agency. 01/03/08)

15% of Germans think that the economic situation in Germany is fair. A year ago, 28% felt that the income was fairly distributed. 24% are convinced there is a "social market economy in Germany." 62% said the German economic model is "not really a social" one. Only 5% of the interviewed said Germany is the country where they feel their notions of social justice have been implemented. (Allensbach. FAZ, Tagesspiegel, 12/11/07)

5.5 million people worked for less than 7.50 € per hour in 2006 (17.7% of all gainfully employed people). Compared to 2004, when 4.6 million worked for less than 7.50 €/hour, this is an increase of 10.9% (Institute Labor and qualification of the University Duisburg. Frankfurter Rundschau 12/08/07).

Germany has remained the top exporting nation in the world in the first nine months of this year. The value of exports made up around 39% of the Germany's GDP last year and this share "should increase slightly". The value of exported German products rose 19% to 661 billion euros from January to September, compared with a 15% increase in imports worth 524 billion euros in the same period. (Major papers, 12/05/07)

### Society

66% of Americans and over half of Italians (55%), Germans (52%) and Spaniards (51%) think the U.S. election is extremely or very important to people in other countries as do 43% of British and 38% of French adults. When it comes to importance within their own country, the French again stand out as just 11% say the U.S. election will be extremely or very important to people in France. 37% of Italians, 34% of Spaniards, 33% of Britons and 30% of Germans each think the U.S. election will be extremely or very important to people in their country. Obviously, an overwhelming majority in the U.S. (82%) believe this election will be extremely or very important in their country. Over half of adults in France (56%), Spain (56%), Germany (55%), and Italy (53%) as well as a plurality (43%) in Great Britain, believe that electing a woman as president would have a positive effect on the USA. Similar numbers in France (57%), Germany (56%), Italy (53%), Spain (51%) and Great Britain (36%) believe that electing a woman would have a positive effect on America's relationship with other countries. In the U.S., 29% of Americans believe electing a woman would have a positive effect on the USA while 26% say it would have a negative effect and 23% believe it would have equally positive and negative effects. When it comes to America's relationship with other countries, 23% say a female president would have a positive effect, 25% an equally positive and negative effect and 31% a negative effect. (International Herald Tribune/France 24/Harris Interactive. Released 12/11/07)

About 358,200 first-year students entered higher education in Germany in the academic year 2007 (summer semester 2007 and winter semester 2007/2008). This is an increase of 4% compared to the preceding year. An increase of just below 2% was observed for universities and of as much as 8% for Fachhochschulen (Universities of Applied Sciences). The ratio of new entrants, that is the share of first-year students in the population of the same age, amounts to 36.6% for the academic year 2007. This has been the first year-on-year increase since the academic year 2003, when the ratio of new entrants was 38.9%. A total of about 1.948 million students are enrolled at German institutions of higher education in the winter semester 2007/2008, which has just started. This is a slight decrease of just under 2% (-31,900) on the previous year. The proportion of female students has remained unchanged at 48%. A total of 1.376 million (71%) women and men are enrolled at universities or comparable institutions, while 572,000 (29%) students are registered at Fachhochschulen or colleges of public administration. (Provisional results. Federal Statistical Office, 12/12/07)

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